Forecasting Outbreaks—1 Image at a Time

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by Nick Generous

Better tracking of infectious diseases can help us improve disease prediction and, consequently, more quickly stop their spread. At Los Alamos National Laboratory we've been using mathematics and computer modeling since the early 2000s to do exactly that. It's easy to see how tracking diseases and stemming their spread are vital to national security. Diseases don't care about boundaries. They don't respect borders and they aren't governed by political ideology. All it takes to spread an infectious disease is for an infected person to carry it from one place to another. In today's globally connected society that's all too easy.

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